



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: February 7, 2014

To: Chair Elizabeth Glidden and Vice Chair Alondra Cano

Referral to: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Presentation by Metro Cities: Metropolitan Water Resources, Regional Planning Process.

Recommendation: Receive and File

Department Information

Prepared by: IGR Staff

Approved by: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director _____

Presenters in Committee: Patricia Nauman, Executive Director, Metro Cities

Supporting Information

Metro Cities (created in 1974 as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities) primary objective is to be an effective voice for metropolitan cities at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council, so as to influence state legislation affecting metro area cities, and regional policies that accommodate the needs of metro area cities.

Metro Cities is the only metro-wide entity that lobbies and monitors the Metropolitan Council, and the only region-wide organization representing cities before the Legislature and Executive Branch.

Metro Cities represents 86 member cities, comprising 90% of the region's population, including the core cities, inner ring and developing communities, before the State Legislature and the Metropolitan Council.

Metro Cities provides a forum for bringing city officials from across the region together to share ideas and experiences and works to foster open lines of communication between city officials and officials at the state and regional levels of government.

Metro Cities lobbies on a wide range of policies, over 60 in all, including transportation, local government aids and credits, wastewater, redevelopment and housing. Legislative policies are developed each year by consensus of our membership. Similar to the League of Minnesota Cities, Metro Cities has a policy development process that includes members working on such policies as revenue, transportation housing and general government issues. City of Minneapolis council members and staff have participated in the committees.

By statute, Metro Cities makes municipal appointments to the Met Council's Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), the technical advisory committee (TAC) of TAB, and the Government Information Services (GIS) board. City of Minneapolis electeds and staff serve on TAB and TAC.

In addition to its policy process Metro Cities also involves members through task forces or special meetings in discussing such policies as regional water availability, wastewater management, regional planning and public finance issues. The organization recently sponsored a regional water summit and has established a task force to review the forthcoming draft of Thrive 2040, the regional policy blueprint.